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Country programme document

Philippines

Summary

The country programme document (CPD) for the Philippines is presented to the Executive Board for discussion and approval at the present session, on a no-objection basis. The CPD includes a proposed aggregate indicative budget of $17,380,000 from regular resources, subject to the availability of funds, and $94,800,000 in other resources, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 2019 to 2023.

In accordance with Executive Board decision 2014/1, the present document reflects comments made by Executive Board members on the draft CPD that was shared 12 weeks before the second regular session of 2018.

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Programme rationale

1. The 2019–2023 programme of cooperation between the Government of the Philippines and UNICEF comes at a time of significant opportunity as the country continues its strong economic growth.[1] The Philippines is a lower-middle-income country; the economy grew by 6.9 per cent in 2016 and an estimated 6.7 per cent in 2017.[2]

2. The Philippines has a young, mobile and rapidly urbanizing population. More than half (51.3 per cent) of the 101 million total population are under the age of 25 years, providing a potential demographic dividend for the country.[3] The urban population is predicted to reach 56 per cent by 2050.[4] Migration, both within the Philippines and to and from other countries, is significant. The population is ethnically diverse, with an estimated 14 to 17 million indigenous peoples across the Philippines belonging to 110 ethnolinguistic groups.[5] The population is predominantly Christian, with a 6 per cent Muslim population.[6]

3. The Philippines is the site of a challenging convergence of natural hazards, climate change and rapid unplanned urbanization. Globally, the country is ranked both as one of the most vulnerable countries to such disasters as typhoons, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, flooding and drought and as one of the five countries most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.[7] There is little public awareness of child-specific impacts and few mitigation measures are in place.[8]

4. The Government's long-term development plan, entitled AmBisyon Natin 2040, sets a vision for the country in which no one is poor and people enjoy healthy lives. It anchors the Philippine Development Plan 2017–2022, which outlines priorities for the country's progress.

5. Persistent inequalities undermine human development, as reflected in the high Gini coefficient of 0.43 in 2015.[9] A major barrier to equitable development, despite strong economic growth, is the concentration of wealth, particularly in terms of land and political power. Inequality is based on geographic location, income, gender, disability and ethnic status, and is most stark in Mindanao and especially across the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

6. Mindanao has the country's highest poverty rate, with 53.7 per cent of the population living under the national poverty line.[10] It has one of the world's longest-running armed conflicts and is prone to multiple natural hazards. The consequences for children include displacement, the loss of family members and disrupted access to education, health care and other basic services. In many conflict-affected and geographically isolated areas, children have little access to basic services and are victims of grave violations of rights.

7. There has been limited progress towards addressing some of the concluding observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, made at its fifty-second session, in 2009, including the minimum age of sexual consent and the prohibition of violence in the home, schools, public and private institutions and the alternative care system. The

[1] World Bank Group, *Global Economic Prospects, June 2017: A Fragile Recovery* (Washington, D.C., 2017).
[2] Ibid.
[3] Calculated using basic data from the 2015 Census Reports, Philippine Statistics Authority.
[4] United Nations, *World Urbanization Prospects: The 2014 Revision* (New York, 2015).
[5] United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), *Fast Facts: Indigenous Peoples in the Philippines* (Pasay City, Philippines, 2013).
[6] Philippine Statistics Authority, *2015 Census of Population Report* (Manila, 2017).
[7] Sönke Kreft and others, *Global Climate Risk Index 2015* (Bonn, Germany, Germanwatch, 2014).
[8] Javier Bornstein Ortega and Christine Klauth, *Climate landscape analysis for children in the Philippines* (UNICEF, 2017).
[9] UNDP, Human Development Report, income Gini coefficient data, 2016.
[10] Philippine Statistics Authority, *2015 Full Year Official Poverty Statistics of the Philippines* (Quezon City, Philippines, 2016).

Committee also recommended further work on addressing neonatal deaths, undernutrition, data on children with disabilities and adolescent mental health.

8. The 2017 Situation Analysis of Children in the Philippines highlighted common barriers and bottlenecks to the realization of children's rights. These include: (a) weak political accountability and rule of law in the implementation of the legislative and policy framework at the subnational level and how this framework addresses entrenched inequality and vulnerability in such groups as adolescents; (b) uneven capacity for and attention to equity in public financial management to address chronic underspending at the national and subnational levels and structural bottlenecks in the execution of national budgets; (c) incomplete decentralization and capacity of local government units and their linkages with regional, provincial and national entities; and (d) the limited availability and quality of data on adolescent services, children with disabilities and indigenous populations.

9. The Philippines made strong progress towards achieving many of the Millennium Development Goals, including universal primary education, infant and under-five mortality and access to water. However, the national-level data mask significant regional and socioeconomic disparities in key outcomes for children and access to basic services.

10. The national under-five mortality rate decreased from 31 per 1,000 live births in 2013 to 27 in 1,000 in 2017,[11] above the Sustainable Development Goal target of 25 per 1,000.[12] In ARMM, the rate is more than double the national rate, at 55 per 1,000.[13] The national infant mortality rate is 21 per 1,000 live births[14] and 32 per 1,000 ARMM.[15] The main causes of neonatal mortality, early childhood illness and deaths are financial and geographical barriers that limit access to cost-effective, preventive and curative health interventions as well as poor quality of care. The low and decreasing rates of childhood immunization are concerns, with the coverage of the final combined diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus (DPT3) vaccine dropping from 85 per cent in 2013 [16] to 80 per cent in 2017.[17]

11. High levels of stunting persist, at 33.4 per cent in 2015, an increase from 30.3 per cent in 2013.[18] The main contributing factors are inadequate dietary intake, including low breastfeeding rates,[19] infections and poor maternal health and nutrition before, during and after pregnancy.

12. Over 90 per cent of the population have access to basic drinking water; 75 per cent have access to basic sanitation; and 6 per cent still practise open defecation.[20] Sanitation is given low priority by local government and households, resulting in limited investment.

13. Only around 42 per cent of children aged 3 to 4 years were enrolled in early childhood care and development programmes in 2013,[21] and the net enrolment rate for kindergarten was 74.65 per cent in 2015.[22] Challenges include a lack of national data on participation, low financing, a lack of awareness of the value of early childhood care and development services, limited inter-agency coordination and restrictive policies and standards, which inadvertently exclude disadvantaged children, especially indigenous children and children with disabilities.

[11] Philippine Statistics Authority, *National Demographic and Health Survey* (NDHS) 2017 (Quezon City, Philippines, 2018).
[12] Sustainable Development Goals Watch, Philippine Statistics Authority.
[13] NDHS 2013.
[14] NDHS 2017.
[15] NDHS 2013.
[16] Ibid.
[17] NDHS 2017.
[18] Eighth National Nutrition Survey (NNS), Food and Nutrition Research Institute, 2015.
[19] NNS 2013.
[20] World Health Organization/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme report, 2017.
[21] Department of Social Welfare and Development.
[22] Philippine Development Plan 2017–2022.

14. The national net enrolment rate for elementary education was 91.05 per cent in 2015, a decrease from 95.5 per cent in 2010.[23] Of concern is the high rate of non-completion at the elementary level at 17 per cent (2015),[24] and the high number of children aged 5 to 15 years out of school, estimated at 2.85 million in 2016.[25] The situation is exacerbated by low levels of educational achievement reflective of chronic low investment over the past decade, outdated teaching methods and limited attention to the development of children's social and emotional skills.

15. High rates of violence against children were revealed in the 2015 National Baseline Survey: physical (64.6 per cent); psychological (62.8 per cent); bullying (61.5 per cent); sexual (24.6 per cent); and cyberviolence (51.3 per cent). Boys and girls are exposed to violence mainly because of poverty and migration, which increase violence at home; the increasing risk of online and offline commercial sexual exploitation and trafficking; social norms that encourage corporal punishment; and the limited availability and awareness of protection services for children. The situation is compounded by a weak child protection system and related laws that are often not enforced, implemented or systematically monitored at the local level. Children and adolescents growing up in conflict-affected areas, especially in Mindanao, face additional risk of violence, including grave violations.

16. Adolescents face key challenges to develop to their full potential. Barriers remain in their access to sexual and reproductive health information and services. Almost 3 in 10 (29 per cent) of new HIV cases in 2016 were among young people below the age of 24 years, primarily boys 15 to 24 years old.[26] The rate of teenage pregnancy is high, reported at 9 per cent among women age 15 to 19[27] and one quarter of pregnant women are anaemic.[28] Adolescents' readiness for the workplace is constrained by high levels of secondary school dropout, limited access to vocational learning and underdeveloped social and emotional skills.[29] There are also growing concerns about the recruitment of young people, especially in Mindanao, by armed groups, including violent extremist groups.

17. The Philippines has one of the narrowest gender gaps globally.[30] However, reports indicate challenges regarding wage equality and the reopening of a health and survival gender gap. Norms and beliefs relating to gender roles underpin violence against women and children and confine women to domestic roles, limiting their access to the formal job market and the ability to escape poverty and gain economic independence.[31] Social norms relating to gender roles and expectations also appear to have a negative impact on educational outcomes for boys.

18. The evaluation of the 2012–2018 country programme highlighted the importance of continued strategic capacity development and the strengthening of policy implementation. Its recommendations include transitioning out of direct cash transfers, procurement services and direct implementation towards high-level strategic upstream engagement. The evaluation also emphasized the importance of working with the regional and provincial levels of Government to strengthen the coordination of programmes and increase the capacity of national partners to scale up successful implementation models.

19. Lessons learned from the evaluation and confirmed through causality analysis and theory-of-change consultations with partners framed the 2019–2023 country programme.

[23] Ibid.
[24] Ibid.
[25] Department of Education Project Development Division, Last-mile learners situational analysis report, June 2016.
[26] HIV/AIDS and Antiretroviral Treatment Registry of the Philippines, December 2016.
[27] NDHS 2017.
[28] 2017 National Demographic and Health Survey
[29] NDHS 2013.
[30] World Economic Forum, *The Global Gender Gap Report 2017* (Geneva, 2017).
[31] Asian Development Bank, Gender Equality in the Labour Market in the Philippines (Mandaluyong City, Philippines, 2013).

These include (a) the addressing of persistent bottlenecks in the provision of holistic early childhood care and development and comprehensive adolescent services; (b) the development of special measures for indigenous children, children with disabilities and children living in conflict- and hazard-prone areas; and (c) the promotion of positive social norms and parental practices. The consultations identified UNICEF as having a key role in partnering with national and subnational government agencies to (a) address the fragmentation of services by strengthening vertical and horizontal coordination across government; (b) strengthen the implementation and inclusiveness of national programmes; (c) fill evidence gaps through the generation, analysis and use of data and strategic information; and (d) address structural constraints in strategic planning and budget execution.

Programme priorities and partnerships

20. The priorities outlined in the Philippine Development Plan 2017–2022 informed the development of the country programme. The plan focuses on inclusive growth, a high-trust society and a globally competitive knowledge economy. Within this framework, the strategic contribution of UNICEF is to support vulnerability reduction, the development of human capital and safe and secure communities and the achievement of sustainable peace.[32]

21. The country programme was developed simultaneously with the United Nations Partnership Framework (UNPF) 2019–2023, with results aligned to its three pillars: people; planet and prosperity; and peace. UNICEF will maximize the use of joint programming with other United Nations agencies, including support for localizing the Sustainable Development Goals and addressing structural bottlenecks in public-sector capacity and implementation challenges related to decentralization. UNICEF will collaborate with other United Nations agencies to promote a comprehensive approach to peacebuilding in Mindanao and in implementing the normative role of the United Nations.

22. Partnerships to strengthen the UNICEF humanitarian response will be integrated across programmes in line with the Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action. Under the leadership of the Office of Civil Defense/National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council and the Climate Change Commission, UNICEF will continue to participate in cluster coordination mechanisms and strengthen the preparedness capacity of partners for short-term and long-term hazards.

23. Intensified collaboration with such regional bodies as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the Asian Development Bank is envisaged to strengthen regional cooperation around local child-focused governance, investment in cognitive capital and solutions to violence against children.

24. The overall theory of change underpinning the country programme is that the fulfilment of child rights is possible only when: (a) essential services are relevant and of high quality; (b) essential social services have been adequately scaled up; (c) services are more resilient and inclusive; (d) children, adolescents and parents and other caregivers demand quality services and practise safe behaviours; and (e) children and families are prepared for and able to mitigate risks and respond appropriately to shocks and stresses.

25. UNICEF will address inequalities in child outcomes where they are most prevalent and severe, including specific vulnerabilities for children and adolescents; strengthen the resilience of their families, communities and the environments in which they live; and ensure that they develop to their full potential and live in environments that are safe, protected and responsive to their needs. UNICEF will focus on the rights of the country's estimated 12 million poor children who experience multiple deprivations.[33] These include

[32] National Economic and Development Authority, *Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022* (Manila, 2017).

[33] Estimated using data on poverty, 2015, from the Philippine Statistics Authority, released 30 June 2017.

children living on the streets, child workers, children from indigenous communities, displaced children, children with disabilities and children living in ARMM.

26. UNICEF will continue to strengthen the integration of gender across all programming and ensure that gender equality is central to legislation and policy development, research, resource allocation and planning. Gender-responsive interventions focusing on equity in gender norms will be designed to achieve results for children.

27. UNICEF will work with the national authorities to maximize the impact of the country programme nationwide, while modeling selected high-impact interventions and at-scale programming in the poorest and conflict-affected parts of Mindanao and in impoverished urban and rural remote locations within at least two, hazard-prone, poorer provinces. Geographic programme convergence will be emphasized to address multiple deprivations and to maximize return on investments.

28. Six core change strategies will be applied at the national and subnational levels to address common barriers to the realization of child rights:

(a) *Evidence generation and use* – generating high-quality evidence to influence and inform the development and implementation of policies and programmes for children, identify emerging and strategic issues and contribute to global knowledge on children;

(b) *Policy advocacy* – influencing policies, plans and public financing to have the greatest impact on multidimensional child poverty and family resilience;

(c) *Public discourse and social norms* – harnessing the vibrant mass media, including digital and social, to engage more directly with citizens, particularly the large youth population, together with civil society organizations (CSOs) and the private sector to effect positive social change;

(d) *Leveraging resources and partnerships for children* – engaging a wide range of stakeholders, including all levels of government, bilateral and other development partners, civil society, the media and young people, to establish priorities and commitments to use funds as a catalytical resource for effective, scalable and sustainable interventions and working with the private sector to influence local business practices for children's rights;

(e) *Investing in policy and programme implementation capacities at the national and subnational level* – developing and delivering child- and equity-focused integrated programmes, planning, budgeting and coordination;

(f) *Harnessing innovation* – maximizing opportunities through the innovative use of technology to leverage national investments for children.

Survive and thrive

29. This component is aimed at addressing the high rates of stunting and neonatal deaths and the low rates of immunization to ensure inclusive access to age-appropriate, culturally sensitive, gender-responsive and resilient nutrition, health and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) interventions, including in humanitarian situations, especially for the most-vulnerable children, adolescents and women.

30. UNICEF will prioritize assistance for equity-focused health systems strengthening, building on the experience of UNICEF in policy and legislative advocacy and operations research in the Philippines. UNICEF will advocate with national and subnational policymakers to address technical, organizational and public financing gaps in health, nutrition and WASH and to improve coordination, planning and budgeting. UNICEF will support the Department of Health and the National Youth Commission to generate evidence on adolescent physical and mental health.

31. In collaboration with the World Health Organization and other partners, technical support will be provided to the Department of Health to address persistent implementation challenges in maternal, child and adolescent health services, such as immunization coverage.

It will address financial bottlenecks that hinder access to health systems by partnering with PhilHealth (Philippine Health Insurance Corp.) to strengthen the effective implementation of inclusive national health insurance benefits.

32. In collaboration with the National Nutrition Council, Department of Interior and Local Government and other partners, UNICEF will provide technical support to local government to build its capacity to shift from fragmented vertical approaches to integration into the First 1,000 Days national programme of interventions in the areas of social protection, child protection, health, hygiene and sanitation, nutrition and early childhood care and development.

Quality and inclusive lifelong learning

33. This component is aimed at increasing access to quality and inclusive lifelong learning. UNICEF will collaborate with the Early Childhood Care and Development Council and the Department of Social Welfare and Development to increase access to early childhood care and development and with the Department of Education to increase inclusive access to early learning, preschool, primary and lower secondary education and to strengthen the integration of nutrition, WASH (including menstrual hygiene management) and disaster risk reduction education and services in schools.

34. UNICEF will support national capacity strengthening to improve the quality and relevance of teaching and the learning environment and will strengthen its cooperation with sector partners, particularly with the Governments of Australia and Japan, to promote greater access to formal and non-formal learning opportunities for children and adolescents, including social and emotional learning and twenty-first century skills. UNICEF will work with multiple partners to ensure that children and adolescents from indigenous populations and children with disabilities have access to appropriate and relevant learning environments. It will also undertake evidence-informed advocacy on the need for greater investment in the country's cognitive capital.

35. On the basis of the 2016 evaluation of the education programme, UNICEF will provide technical support to strengthen the enabling environment for learning, working with the Department of Education on policies, strategic planning and equitable resource allocation. UNICEF will build on the current investments in innovative research and policy development to promote quality early childhood care and development, particularly in Mindanao. Technical expertise will be provided to the Department of Education and other partners to strengthen the implementation of national learning programmes and support systems for parents and caregivers of young children and adolescents and for adolescent parents.

Protective environment

36. This component is aimed at contributing to the reduction of all forms of violence, including the online and offline exploitation of children and the strengthening of the protection of children, including those affected by natural disasters and situations of armed conflict.

37. UNICEF will support four key strategies towards the planned outcome: (a) establishing robust legal and policy frameworks based on international standards; (b) building national commitment to multisectoral plans and action; (c) improving equitable access to interventions to prevent violence and more responsive services for children and families; and (d) promoting positive norms that discourage all forms of violence.

38. Guided by recent evidence,[34] UNICEF will work with partners to strengthen their capacity to implement the Philippine Plan of Action to End Violence against Children, the National Response Plan to Prevent and Address Child Online Sexual Exploitation and

[34] Council for the Welfare of Children and UNICEF, National baseline study on violence against children: Philippines (2016).

Abuse and the Comprehensive Emergency Programme for Children in line with the Children's Emergency Relief and Protection Act. UNICEF will collaborate with key national executive agencies, including law enforcement and the judiciary, to increase their capacity to prevent and respond to violence against children and adolescents, including in humanitarian situations. UNICEF will provide technical assistance to regional and provincial government structures to strengthen community-based mechanisms for violence prevention and multisectoral responses.

39. UNICEF will provide technical assistance to national and local government partners to develop strategies that mobilize communities to identify and report cases of violence and provide appropriate, quality and inclusive child welfare services. UNICEF will build the capacity of multiple partners to collaborate to promote positive social norms. Core messages on the prevention of violence against children and response to such violence will be integrated within the health, education and WASH sectors to ensure a multisectoral response.

40. Considering the significant disparities in the conflict-affected parts of Mindanao, UNICEF will work with the regional Government and line departments of the Autonomous Region as well as United Nations agencies and CSOs to strengthen subnational capacities to protect children at risk of or affected by violence or humanitarian situations. This includes enhancing multisectoral capacities to reduce children's risks and vulnerabilities by strengthening access to health care, nutrition, water, sanitation, education and learning opportunities within the comprehensive normalization programme.

Social policy and governance

41. This component will address multidimensional child poverty and the need to build family resilience to the shocks and stresses caused by natural disasters, armed conflict or climate change.

42. UNICEF will use evidence-informed advocacy to influence national policy development, planning and budgeting in favour of the most vulnerable children. It will partner with the Philippines Statistics Authority and United Nations agencies to strengthen national capacities to develop and adopt innovative approaches to using quality data and research to address multidimensional child poverty, including collecting and using gender- and age-disaggregated data and undertaking gender analyses in vulnerability assessments.

43. UNICEF will build on recent initiatives to strengthen national and subnational equity-focused public financial management and will support the Department of the Interior and Local Government to further integrate disaster preparedness and climate change adaptation in local government planning and budgeting systems in urban and rural contexts.

44. In coordination with partners, UNICEF will support capacity development to strengthen the Government's monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals at the national and subnational levels and for the implementation of the National Evaluation Policy, including results-based monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

45. In coordination with the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank Group and the Government of Australia, UNICEF will provide technical support and undertake advocacy to ensure that socially excluded groups, including indigenous children, children with disabilities and other marginalized children and their families benefit from the Government's universal social protection and poverty reduction programmes.

Programme effectiveness

46. This component supports actions to ensure the effective implementation and management of the country programme, including programme coordination, strategic communication and private sector engagement. It supports the coordination of research, monitoring, evaluation, advocacy and partnerships. It also includes efforts to strengthen disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness and response and climate change adaptation as well as the application of gender analyses across all programme components.

Summary budget table

Programme component	*(In thousands of United States dollars)*		
	Regular resources	*Other resources*	*Total*
Survive and thrive	3 620	30 140	33 760
Quality and inclusive lifelong learning	1 990	27 400	29 390
Protective environment	2 260	17 900	20 160
Social policy and governance	4 530	5 310	9 840
Programme effectiveness	4 980	14 050	19 030
Total	**17 380**	**94 800**	**112 180**

Programme and risk management

47. The country programme will be coordinated by the National Economic and Development Authority, under the mechanisms for the coordination and management of the UNPF.

48. UNICEF will build on the lessons learned from the previous country programme and institute coordination mechanisms to strengthen cross-sectoral linkages and the monitoring of programme effectiveness. It will strengthen institutional capacity in results-based management, which will also contribute to addressing fiduciary risks. Standard office business and emergency preparedness procedures will be updated to ensure that the country programme can continue and adequately support the Government in the event of a major disaster.

49. Key risks for achieving results include the multiple natural hazards, the increasing threat of climate-related emergencies; increasing insecurity in Mindanao; the reorganization of social services and the Government with the move towards federalism and the establishment of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region; a reduction in resources for sustaining core priorities; and the ability of other United Nations agencies to support joint commitments. The risk management strategy involves developing evidence on costed interventions and advocacy that target decision-makers in the public and private sectors and influence public discourse and partnership mechanisms to leverage equity-focused investments for children. Mitigation measures include strengthening emergency response preparedness and building resilience and the detection of slow-onset climate-related emergencies into regular programming.

50. This country programme document outlines the UNICEF contributions to national results and serves as the primary unit of accountability to the Executive Board for results alignment and resources assigned to the programme at the country level. Accountabilities of managers at the country, regional and headquarters levels are prescribed in the organization's programme and operations policies and procedures.

Monitoring and evaluation

51. Progress towards results will be assessed during mid- and end-year reviews with Government and other partners. The annual review will analyse progress towards overcoming priority deprivations as envisaged in the theory of change, including the identification of bottlenecks. This will inform adjustments to rolling work plans. Field monitoring and assurance, including joint programme visits with partners will be conducted regularly.

52. UNICEF will continue to work with partners, including the National Economic and Development Authority, the Philippines Statistics Agency and subnational entities, to strengthen the monitoring of joint United Nations programmes to track progress under the UNPF, and will support reviews to determine in which areas to strengthen gender-based priorities and approaches under the UNPF and the country programme, in line with the national gender action plan.

53. Major evaluations will be undertaken of four programmes: (a) the First 1,000 Days national programme; (b) the child protection programme; (c) the peacebuilding approach; and (d) the country programme. The findings will be used to strengthen programme implementation, influence policies and legislation and inform the strategic direction of partnerships with the Government.

Annex

Results and resources framework

Philippines – UNICEF country programme of cooperation, 2019–2023

Convention on the Rights of the Child: articles 1–26 **National priorities:** Philippine Development Plan 2017–2022 Chapter 10: Accelerating human capital development Chapter 11: Reduce vulnerability of individuals and families Chapter 12: Building safe and secure communities Chapter 17: Attaining just and lasting peace **Sustainable Development Goals**: 1–6 and 16
United Nations Partnership Framework 2019–2023 outcomes involving UNICEF: **People:** By 2023, the most marginalized, vulnerable and at-risk people and groups benefit from inclusive and quality social services and live in healthy and supportive environments wherein their nutrition and food security is ensured/protected. **Planet/prosperity**: By 2023, urbanization, economic growth and climate change amid changing demographics are converging to ensure that communities are on a sustainable, inclusive, resilient and prosperous development path. **Peace**: By 2023, national and local governments and key stakeholders recognize and share a common understanding of the diverse cultural history, identity and inequalities of areas affected by conflict, enabling the establishment of inclusive and responsive governance systems and accelerating sustainable and equitable development for a just and lasting peace in all of Mindanao. **Outcome indicators measuring change that reflect UNICEF contribution:** Prevalence of stunting among children under the age of 5 years Maternal mortality ratio Mortality rate from food- and water-borne diseases HIV incidence per 1,000 population
UNICEF Strategic Plan, 2018–2021 Goal Areas: 1–5

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines (B)[1] and targets (T)[2]*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
1. Survive and thrive By 2023, more children, adolescents and women, particularly the most vulnerable, benefit from improved and equitable neonatal, child, maternal and adolescent health and nutrition services, and adopt healthy life practices.	Proportion of children under five years of age who are stunted B: 33.4% (2015) T: 21.4% (2023)	National Nutrition Survey	Government and partners have enhanced capacity to plan, deliver and monitor coordinated multisectoral, gender-responsive approaches at scale to reduce stunting and other forms of malnutrition. The health system is strengthened to accelerate equitable access to high-impact interventions for reducing preventable newborn deaths, early childhood illnesses and disability. The Government demonstrates a strengthened capacity to ensure that adolescents have improved access to gender-responsive physical, mental, sexual and reproductive health services and information. The Government and partners have strengthened capacity to develop, implement and monitor coordinated, evidence-based policies, strategies and plans for equitable, gender-responsive and sustainable access to basic water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services.	National Nutrition Council; Department of Health; Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG); National Youth Commission; Scaling Up Nutrition; United Nations agencies; regional Government of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao	3 620	30 140	33 760
	Neonatal mortality rate B: 13 per 1,000 live births (2013) T: 10 per 1,000 live births (2022)	National Demographic and Health Survey					
	Proportion of people practising open defecation B: 6% (2015) T: 0% (2023)	World Health Organization-UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme annual report					
2. Quality and inclusive lifelong learning By 2023, more children and adolescents, especially the most	Proportion of students moving "towards mastery" and "mastery" levels on the Elementary National Achievement Test (NAT)	NAT database	Government authorities have improved capacity to deliver inclusive, gender-responsive, equitable and quality early childhood education.	Department of Education; DILG; Early Childhood Care and Development Council; Department	1 990	27 400	29 390

[1] Where baseline year is not specified, data are from 2014.
[2] Where no target date is specified, the target year is 2023.

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines (B)[1] and targets (T)[2]*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
disadvantaged, have improved education and learning outcomes.	B: 63.93% (2014–2015, boys: 61.37%; girls: 66.56%) T: 74.39% (school year 2022–2023) with gender parity		Government authorities have strengthened capacity to improve the system for quality, equitable and inclusive education, including the development of social and emotional skills. The Government has strengthened coordination mechanisms and approaches to enhance the capacity of parents and caregivers to practise behaviours and demonstrate attitudes that help children and adolescents to learn and thrive.	of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD); National Youth Commission; Regional Government ARMM			
	Early Language Literacy and Numeracy Assessment Results (ELLNA) at Grade 3 B: TBD after ELLNA is implemented in 2018–2019 T: TBD with gender parity (2023)	ELLNA database					
	Percentage of children (3–4 years) attending preschool B: 42% (day care, 2013) Sex-disaggregation available in late 2018 T: TBD (2023)	Early Childhood Care and Development Information System					
	Proportion of primary schools with sanitation facilities for girls that meet national standards B: TBD (2019) T: TBD (2023)	Basic Education Information System					
3. Protective environment By 2023, more children and adolescents, particularly the most vulnerable, benefit from a more-effective, quality, gender-sensitive, preventive and responsive	Number of boys and girls who have experienced violence reached by social, justice or law enforcement services B: 3,862 (2017) (boys: 1,718; girls: 2,144) T: TBD (2023)	Department of Social Welfare and Development child protection data	The legislative and institutional framework is strengthened to better protect boys and girls who are vulnerable and exposed to violence, abuse, exploitation and harmful gender norms. The child welfare system has strengthened capacity to deliver	DSWD; Department of Justice; Supreme Court; Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council; Council on the Welfare of Children; Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace	2 260	17 900	20 160

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines (B)[1] and targets (T)[2]*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
child protection system and live in communities that better protect children from violence.	Percentage of reported cases of grave child rights violations verified and responded to annually B: 65% (2017) Sex-disaggregated data available in late 2018 T: 75% (2023)	Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism, Information Management System	local, multisectoral, gender-sensitive services that prevent and respond to violence against children. Children and adolescents affected by disasters and those affected by armed conflict in Mindanao are increasingly able to access critical social services. The general public in the Philippines, adolescents in particular, are better informed and act to eliminate all forms of violence.	Process; Commission on Human Rights; Regional Government ARMM			
	Percentage of UNICEF targeted local government units with at least the minimum ratio of child-centred social workers (boys/girls per population), based on national standards and with capacity to provide gender-responsive child and family social services B: TBD (2018) T: TBD (2023)	Department of Social Welfare and Development					
4. Social policy and governance By 2023, the most disadvantaged children, families and communities in remote rural areas and impoverished urban pockets have access to inclusive systems that protect them from poverty and enhance their ability to appropriately respond to emergencies and climate-change risks.	Number of children covered by government cash transfer programmes B: 9,501,620 (2017) Sex-disaggregated data available in late 2018 T: 9,605,607 sex-disaggregated (2023)	DSWD Pantawid Pamilya Information System	The capacity of the Government and key stakeholders to plan, budget and provide access to inclusive, integrated, resilient and quality basic social services is strengthened. The equity, child focus and shock-responsiveness of government national social protection programmes are strengthened.	National Economic and Development Authority; DSWD; Philippine Statistics Authority; National Anti-Poverty Commission; Department of Budget and Management; DILG; Regional Government ARMM	4 530	5 310	9 840
	Share of public spending on health, education and social protection benefiting children living in the poorest regions B: TBD (2018) T: TBD (2023)	Department of Budget and Management Database					

UNICEF outcomes	*Key progress indicators, baselines (B)[1] and targets (T)[2]*	*Means of verification*	*Indicative country programme outputs*	*Major partners, partnership frameworks*	*Indicative resources by country programme outcome: regular resources (RR), other resources (OR) (In thousands of United States dollars)*		
					RR	*OR*	*Total*
5. Programme effectiveness Programmes are efficiently designed, coordinated, managed and supported to meet quality programming standards in achieving results for children in development and humanitarian settings.	Percentage of management and programme priority indicators meeting scorecard benchmarks B: TBD (2018) T: 100% (2023)	inSight	UNICEF staff and partners have the guidance, tools and resources for effectively planning, monitoring and evaluating country programme outcomes. UNICEF staff and partners have the guidance, tools and resources for effective communication on child rights issues with partners and stakeholders. More companies are mobilized to adopt children's rights and business principles and commit as active partners in the promotion, protection and fulfilment of child rights within their working environment and sphere of influence. Strategies to address cross-cutting issues related to child rights are developed and applied.	National Economic and Development Authority; United Nations agencies; private sector	4 980	14 050	19 030
	Percentage of funds received as other resources against 2019–2023 country programme planned amount B: TBD (2018) T: 90% (2023)	inSight					
	Percentage of country office "accepted" evaluation recommendations implemented, closed and reported within 12 months of uploading B: 50% (2018) T: 100% (2023)	Evaluation Management Report Tracking System					
Total resources					**17 380**	**94 800**	**112 180**